

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for registering a subscriber unit with a home agent in a cellular system, the method comprising:

storing addresses for a plurality of home agents in the subscriber unit, wherein the plurality of home agents includes a primary home agent and ~~at least one~~ a plurality of secondary home agents;

attempting registration with the primary home agent;

failing to achieve registration with the primary home agent;

the subscriber unit selecting a secondary home agent from the ~~at least one~~ the plurality of secondary home agents in an attempt to balance load among the plurality of secondary home agents; and

attempting registration with the secondary home agent.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein the at least one secondary home agent comprises a plurality of secondary home agents and the method further comprises:~~

the subscriber unit rank ordering the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second secondary home agent.

3. (original) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

attempting registration with the first secondary home agent;

failing to achieve registration with the first secondary home agent; and

attempting registration with the second secondary home agent.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the subscriber unit rank ordering the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second secondary home agent comprises:

the subscriber unit generating a random number; and

the subscriber unit using the random number to rank order the plurality of secondary home agents.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the subscriber unit rank ordering the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second secondary home agent comprises:

the subscriber unit determining a current date; and

the subscriber unit using the current date to rank order the plurality of secondary home agents.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the subscriber unit rank ordering the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second secondary home agent comprises:

the subscriber unit determining a current time; and

the subscriber unit using the current time to rank order the plurality of secondary home agents.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of addresses for the home agents stored in the subscriber unit is programmed by a service provider prior to delivering the

subscriber unit to its subscriber.

8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of addresses for the home agents stored in the subscriber unit is programmed by the service provider using over the air access.

9. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least some of the plurality of addresses for the home agents stored in the subscriber unit is reprogrammed by the service provider using over the air access.

10. (currently amended) A method for registering a subscriber unit with a home agent in a cellular system, the method comprising:

storing addresses for a plurality of home agents in the subscriber unit, wherein the plurality of home agents includes a primary home agent and a plurality of secondary home agents;

attempting registration with the primary home agent;

failing to achieve registration with the primary home agent;

the subscriber unit rank ordering the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second secondary home agent in an attempt to balance load among the plurality of secondary home agents; and

attempting registration with the first secondary home agent.

11. (original) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

failing to achieve registration with the first secondary home agent; and

attempting registration with the second secondary home agent

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the subscriber unit rank ordering the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second secondary home agent comprises:

the subscriber unit generating a random number; and

the subscriber unit using the random number to rank order the plurality of secondary home agents.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the subscriber unit rank ordering the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second secondary home agent comprises:

the subscriber unit determining a current date; and

the subscriber unit using the current date to rank order the plurality of secondary home agents.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the subscriber unit rank ordering the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second secondary home agent comprises:

the subscriber unit determining a current time; and

the subscriber unit using the current time to rank order the plurality of secondary home

agents.

15. (currently amended) A subscriber unit that operates within a cellular system, the ~~mobile~~ subscriber unit comprising:

an antenna;

a radio frequency unit coupled to the antenna; and

at least one digital processor coupled to the radio frequency unit that executes software instructions causing the subscriber unit to:

store addresses for a plurality of home agents in the subscriber unit, wherein the plurality of home agents includes a primary home agent and ~~at least one~~ a plurality of secondary home agents;

attempt registration with the primary home agent;

failing to achieve registration with the primary home agent;

select a secondary home agent from the ~~at least one~~ the plurality of secondary home agents in an attempt to balance load among the plurality of secondary home agents; and

attempt registration with the secondary home agent.

16. (currently amended) The subscriber unit of claim 15, wherein ~~the at least one secondary home agent comprises a plurality of secondary home agents and~~ execution of the software instructions further causes the subscriber unit to:

rank order the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second secondary home agent.

17. (original) The subscriber unit of claim 16, wherein execution of the software instructions further causes the subscriber unit to:

attempt registration with the first secondary home agent;  
fail to achieve registration with the first secondary home agent; and  
attempt registration with the second secondary home agent.

18. (original) The subscriber unit of claim 17, wherein in rank ordering the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second secondary home agent, execution of the software instructions further causes the subscriber unit to:

generate a random number; and  
use the random number to rank order the plurality of secondary home agents.

19. (original) The subscriber unit of claim 17, wherein in rank ordering the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second secondary home agent, execution of the software instructions further causes the subscriber unit to:

determine a current date; and  
use the current date to rank order the plurality of secondary home agents.

20. (original) The subscriber unit of claim 17, wherein in rank ordering the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second secondary home agent, execution of the software instructions further causes the subscriber unit to:

determine a current time; and  
use the current time to rank order the plurality of secondary home agents.

21. (original) The subscriber unit of claim 15, wherein the plurality of addresses for the home agents stored in the subscriber unit is programmed by a service provider prior to delivering the subscriber unit to its subscriber.

22. (original) The subscriber unit of claim 15, wherein the plurality of addresses for the home agents stored in the subscriber unit is programmed by the service provider using over the air access.

23. (original) The subscriber unit of claim 15, wherein at least some of the plurality of addresses for the home agents stored in the subscriber unit is reprogrammed by the service provider using over the air access.